

السنة 1350

Tuesday October 15 1996

Abkhaz D 8.50	Greenland D 400	Norway NK 18
Albania L 250	Hong Kong HK 25	Poland P 200
Andorra A 30	Hungary F 200	Romania R 70
Australia AU 30	Iceland IC 105	Saudi Arabia S 10
Austria O 30	India IN 35	Slovenia SI 55
Belgium B 30	Indonesia ID 30	Spain P 250
Canada C 25	Italy I 3.000	Sweden S 110
Costa Rica CR 25	Jordan JD 1.25	Switzerland SF 3.20
Czechia CZ 100	Kazakhstan KZ 250	Taiwan TW 50
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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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Duncan Campbell talks to Andre Hanscombe

## Life after Rachel

G2 with European weather



Peter Cook remembered

## My brother, the comic genius

Pages 12/13



Education

## Home-school contracts: bringing parents into line

G2 pages 10/11

'The reputation of the House as a whole has been called into question. I believe very strongly that these matters must be resolved as soon as possible'

— Betty Boothroyd yesterday



# The biggest test

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

**B**ETTY Boothroyd, the Speaker, last night warned MPs that they must take urgent and firm action to investigate the "cash for questions" case involving disgraced former minister Neil Hamilton and lobbyist Ian Greer, warning that the scandal had called into question the reputation of Parliament.

Her warning came an hour before the Standards and Privileges Committee met to draw up the terms and scope of an inquiry into allegations that Mr Hamilton had taken tens of thousands of pounds from Harrods owner, Mohamed Al Fayed to ask questions in the Commons.

The also put pressure on the committee and Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, to hold their hearings in public by saying the inquiry should be as "transparent as possible to maintain public confidence."

Senior MPs met Sir Gordon in private last night to decide how to handle the biggest test of Parliament's ability to investigate allegations of corrupt practices in the Commons since Lord Nolan

announced his reform of the system last year.

Tony Newton, the Cabinet minister who chairs the committee, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, and senior Labour and Tory MPs were locked for hours in intense discussion in a small room protected by security guards.

Earlier, Miss Boothroyd had told the Commons: "While the House has been accused very serious allegations have been widely made about the conduct of a number of members. Indeed, the reputation of the House as a whole has been called into question."

"... I would not be doing my duty as Speaker if I allowed the situation to pass without saying that I believe very strongly that these matters must be resolved as soon as possible."

"I hope the Committee on Standards and Privileges will find it possible to make an early special report to the House, so that the full nature and scope of any investigations which it undertakes may be made known."

Following protests from senior Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs, she promised that Sir Gordon would be given all the resources he needed and promised additional powers — which could be passed by a parliamentary motion of both Houses — allowing him to investigate allegations against David Willets, the junior minister and whip, accused of interfering in the original inquiry two years ago into Neil Hamilton's undeclared stay at the Ritz.

It was not clear last night whether the inquiry would look into allegations of a more systemic corruption of Parliament, involving more widespread payments by Mr Greer to other MPs and allegations that Mr Hamilton has received payments in cash and kind worth £10,000 for introducing other clients to Ian Greer's lobbying company.

Earlier, Downing Street had again refused to set up a tribunal of inquiry under a senior judge, despite a joint letter last week from the



Neil Hamilton: all allegations against him must be investigated thoroughly to restore public confidence in Commons



IT WAS EMBARRASSING, THE MP'S KEPT LAUGHING AT ME.

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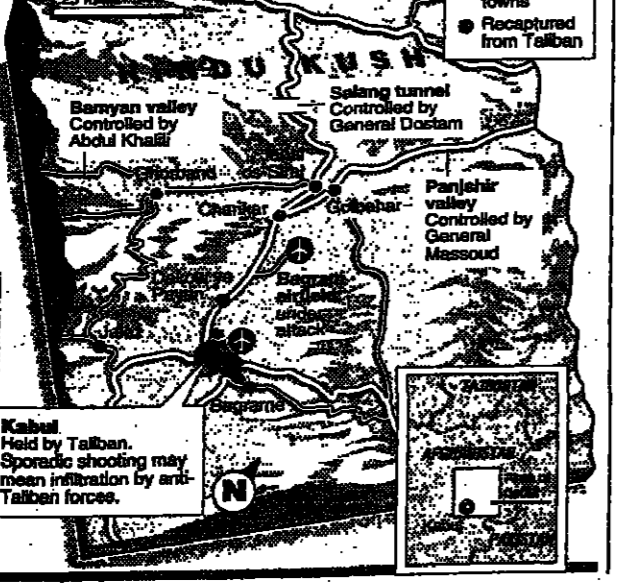
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## Afghan allies close in on retreating Taliban militia

Battle for Kabul



Morale rises among opposition armies as united leaders plot advance on capital

**J**onathan Steele in Bamyan and agencies in Kabul

**P**ROLONGED shooting shattered the calm of the Afghan capital last night as the Taliban militia was pushed back to within three miles of Kabul, which it captured so easily last month.

Tracer rounds were visible across the sky, and anti-aircraft guns, small arms, machine-guns and sporadic artillery could be heard for about an hour after 9pm.

No immediate explanation for the shooting could be sought during the curfew. It could be a sign that guerrillas loyal to Ahmed Shah Massoud, the former defence minister, have infiltrated the capital and are planning to ambush Taliban strongholds.

But a spokesman for Commander Massoud said: "Our forces have not yet entered the capital — they are 2.5 miles to the north."

The Taliban suffered a serious setback during the day when one of its senior commanders, Mullah Abdul Ahmad, was killed in fighting north of Kabul.

The scale of the fighting was indicated by the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press, which quoted witnesses in the eastern city of Jalalabad as saying many Taliban casualties had been ferried to the hospital there.

"We have seen lots of wounded and there are not enough beds for them, so they are lying in the corridors," one witness said. "Lightly wounded fighters are being discharged, but at least 15 seriously wounded cases have been transferred to Pakistan."

The Taliban have lost control of the two main towns on the road north of Kabul and are under pressure at the Bagram air base, north-east of the capital.

The latest military developments will have encouraged the three leaders of Afghanistan's opposition armies. They yesterday hammered out plans for the next stage of their advance, at their second meeting since forming an alliance against the Taliban four days ago.

The rise in morale among the anti-Taliban forces is remarkable. On a fearsome two-day drive up into the Hindu Kush, we encountered groups of soldiers eager to drive the Taliban out. "I want to get rid of them. They are being supported by Pakistan," said a member of a pro-Massoud force of 70 men in the small town of Doab.

The Taliban's customary white flag still flew in the desperately poor settlement, which has no electricity or running water. The Taliban left two days ago, during their retreat from the north.

The same anti-Taliban sentiments could be heard from bus passengers staying in Doab overnight. Their "hotel" consisted of two large rooms with a stove, one each for men and women. Most passengers were Uzbek and Tajik refugees, escaping a clampdown by the largely Pashtun Taliban militia.

The bumpy dirt-road winds through deep gorges and crosses pontoon bridges which passengers sometimes have to help re-build by dropping large rocks into gaps in the rough surface. Until the Salang pass was built, this was the only north-south road across the mountains dividing Afghanistan.

Turn to page 3, column 7

Picture, page 7

Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrat whip, said he believed the Government was using that "as an excuse, as a complete smokescreen."

He said it would be perfectly possible for the Commons to appoint a Law Lord, hand him a remit and use the 1921 Tribunals Act as a framework.

Both Mr Kirkwood and Donald Dewar, the Labour chief whip, expressed concern that Sir Gordon might not have before him the full range of allegations levelled at Mr Hamilton. The former minister's stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, alleged payments to him by Mohammed Al Fayed and his links with US Tobacco must all be investigated by Sir Gordon, they said.

<b>Britain</b>	<b>World News</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10</b>
<b>Inside</b>				<b>G2</b>
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Sketch

Ancient rituals shake the House



Simon Hoggart

THE first greaser to her feet in the new session was Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman. (At the Tory conference a company was drumming up business with free hearing tests. You put on headphones and listened to signals at 500 MHz, 1000, 2000, and finally Elaine Kellett-Bowman level. The trick was, if you were not deaf before taking the test, you would be afterwards.)

Virginia sailed on. "If you want to go to one of the Labour Party's nosh-ups in Park Lane, you have to pay £1,000," she declared, accurately if irrelevantly. "I am available at every tourism event," she added.

Oh, bliss! A factum approaches. "I think you will find the Secretary of State is available," he murmurs. She glides towards you, either pretty in pink or, as yesterday, grimmer in grey. "How may I help you?" she asks, and suddenly you think that £50,000 would be too little for this glimpse of heaven.

Later we heard from Gary Streeter, a fellow-meat in the Lord Chancellor's department. Chris Mullin wanted to know why of the six latest judges, all were public school, five were from Oxbridge, and all were men.

Mr Streeter did not answer. Instead he adopted line number 37 from the whips' handy guide to the election. "You seem to be making an attack on the Old School Tie," he said. "I hope you have cleared this with your party leader."

Dunblane report to recommend weapons be stored at clubs □ Police criticised over killer's certificate

Cullen limits handgun ban

THE long-awaited Cullen report into the Dunblane massacre is to recommend a ban on handguns being held in homes, but stops well short of the complete ban demanded by Dunblane parents, informed sources said last night. Instead, handguns are to be stored at gun clubs.

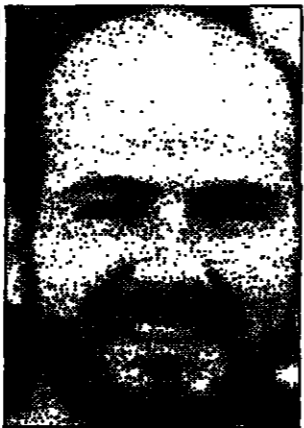
Hamilton in spite of warnings from the community about his behaviour. Lord Cullen conducted the five-week public inquiry into the massacre at Dunblane primary school in March in which Hamilton shot dead 16 children and their teacher before killing himself.

Home Secretary, Michael Howard, will meet this morning to decide the Government's response. Lord Cullen's report, Public Inquiry into Shooting at Dunblane Primary, which runs to 197 pages, makes 20 recommendations. The main one recommends "restricting" possession by individuals of handguns (self-loading and revolvers) of whatever calibre from homes.

with children. Hamilton had run several boys' clubs. The report, which runs to 11 chapters, much of it very legalistic, was collected from Lord Cullen's Edinburgh home yesterday by Scottish Office officials and distributed to other government departments.

Central Scotland police get off relatively lightly. Among the warnings about Hamilton's disturbing behaviour well before the massacre had been one from a police officer, but Hamilton was still able to get a certificate.

Although Lord Cullen is critical of the police, he restricts it mainly to saying things could have been handled differently. The Government is expected, at the very least, to accept Lord Cullen's recommendations.



Judge says earnest plea by patient to help him die led to genuine act of mercy



Paul Brady leaves the High Court in Glasgow after being admonished for the culpable homicide of his brother, James, top left

Man who killed incurable brother freed

Mr Brady, aged 37, from Huddersfield, was originally charged with murdering his 40-year-old brother James, who had been suffering the advanced stages of the body-wasting disease Huntington's Chorea. His release will encourage campaigners for a change in the legal status of mercy killings.

There is now a trend towards treating cases of voluntary euthanasia in a more lenient way, which is the law catching up with public opinion," a spokeswoman for the Voluntary Euthanasia Society said yesterday. "It now needs to be done legally and safely by doctors."

Ludovic Kennedy, the most high-profile advocate of voluntary euthanasia, said he was pleased at the judge's decision. There was criticism, however, from religious organisations in Scotland. "The danger of this kind of verdict is the message it might give to very vulnerable people wondering about their worth, their value and dignity as human beings," said Ann Allen, the vice-convenor of the Church of Scotland's board of social responsibility.

Day after feeding him an excessive amount of tranquillisers and alcohol. The younger brother claimed that James, a long-term nursing home patient whose body was regularly contorted by muscle spasms, had begged him to kill him during a Christmas break at their sister Margaret's Glasgow flat.

During the trial, in which the Crown accepted Brady's plea of guilty to a reduced charge of culpable homicide, it was alleged that James had also asked Margaret to help him die, but she had lacked the nerve.

he had acted out of compassion rather than malice. "You brought your brother's life to an end at his own earnest and prolonged heartfelt request," he said. A custodial sentence, he noted, "would add to the already substantial suffering of those close to you."

Review

Seeds of doubt on freezing funk

Pat Kane

Jamiroqui Glasgow Barrowlands

Is funk defunct? In the current spectrum of global dance culture, where digital rules and the groove is definitely weird, there would seem to be less and less space for the legacy of Brown, Stone, Wonder and Clinton. Sure, funkiness thrives through modern R'n'B and hip-hop like a distant pulse, the underlying human logic of all those zeros and ones. But the original jam — that heaving hump of sweaty collectivity, on a stage or in a studio, that is recognisably The Funk — is now rarely to be found.

arrangements lock with vicious syncopations, chords rob the dark vaults of Horace Silver and Herbie Hancock, all orchestrated by the little white guy in the furry hat.

Some things are worth conserving. Though, as James Blood Ulmer once said, "jazz is the teacher; funk is the preacher." Jamiroqui are not the only people trying to conduct a serious traffic between two distant realms of the black musical tradition — jazz virtuosity and dance-floor necessity. But they're doing serious duty in this concert hall at least: neo-bop born ar-

If you don't have the time to take in all the information in this report you could be suffering from a bout of Information Fatigue Syndrome

The bacillus is called Information Fatigue Syndrome (IFS), whereby megabytes of information — caught on the Internet, in fax-trays, voice-mail boxes, e-mail queues — erode and ultimately destroy the intelligence, personal lives and nervous systems of humans. Half the senior managers working in the industrial superpowers are already stricken with IFS.

The irony, and the heresy, lie in this discovery having been made — and released yesterday — by one of the world's most illustrious disseminators of electronic information: Reuters News Agency.

Some 1,300 business executives from the United States, Singapore, Hong Kong, Britain and Australia were asked about their exposure to the info-plague. Half said they were "unable to handle the information they receive". 31 per cent received "enormous amounts of unsolicited information" and 43 per cent are believed to suffer ill health as a direct consequence. Those from Singapore suffer the most, followed by Britain, then the US.

A hefty 94 per cent "do not believe the situation will improve". Of Singapore's managers, 68 per cent expected the next two years to be even more stressful, followed by 88 per cent in Britain.

Mark Slouka, one of those who created the Internet, likened the information cascade to a "digital hive". He predicted: "In the very near future, human beings will succeed in wiring themselves together to such an extent that individualism will cease to exist."

"And what of us, the new drones? Ignorant, docile, governed by the Invisible Hand of the hive, we will disappear in a rapture of submission."

OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS ARE GOING OUT SOON.

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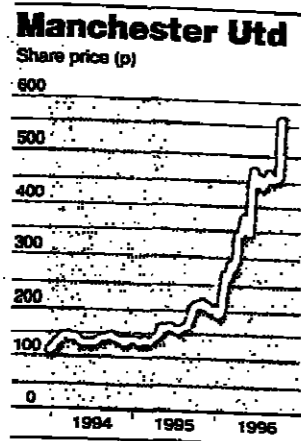


Handwritten signature or note

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, including text like 'City frenzy over takeover sees shares soar' and 'United'.

15 October 1996

Speculation centres on sports impresario



City frenzy over takeover sees shares soar



Supporters of Manchester United, double-double winners at the vanguard of off-pitch football merchandising and promotion

United sell-off talk at fever pitch

Paul Murphy and Lisa Buckingham

FIVE months after becoming the first football team to win the FA Cup and the Premiership in the same year on two occasions, Manchester United were confirmed yesterday as the City of London's favourite for a multi-million pound takeover.

Speculation before the weekend that a big leisure company, such as television combine Granada or brewing giant Whitbread, was interested in paying £450 million or more for the club turned to a frenzy, sending shares in Manchester United up nearly 10 per cent to 55p.

Hopes that a corporate predator may be in the wings have driven up the club's stock by more than a quarter over the past week. The share price has almost tripled this year.

On Friday, Whitbread was forced by the Stock Exchange to issue a statement denying any interest in the club, while Granada has said it is not planning a takeover.

The level of speculation has also caused United's board of directors, led by Michael Edwards, to state publicly that it is not in talks to sell the club.

Stock market punters think differently. Last month it emerged that VCI, a video and publishing group headed by Channel Four chief executive, Michael Grade, offered to pay £300 million for United just after May's FA Cup final success against Liverpool.

Yesterday, speculation centred on the sports impresario Mark McCormack, whose sports promotions company IMG has made little secret of its desire to expand into football. The firm, which recently took a major stake in a stock market-listed golfing company, PGA European Golf Tours, refused to comment.

Having dismissed football as a business "run from the heart rather than for the wallet", City analysts have fallen in love with the sport over the past year, excited by the prospect of potentially huge revenues from pay-as-you-view television and encouraged by moves among the big clubs to widen their revenue base from the turnstiles to sponsorship, strip sales, and corporate entertainment.

GRANADA

Granada: Chaired by Irishman Gerry Robinson, Granada is one of the City's most colourful corporate bruisers. The group triumphed with a £3.8 billion aggressive bid for the Forte hotels and roadside eateries empire not long after it staged the first hostile assault on an ITV company — LWT. In addition to Granada and LWT, the company has a powerful shareholding in Yorkshire Tynes Television, for which it is expected to bid.

The group — which rivals Carlton Communications as the most influential commercial terrestrial television organisation — has also joined forces with the broadcaster BSkyB, in which it owns shares, to produce satellite channels.

Run with brutally tight management controls, Granada also has interests in motorway service stations, commercial catering and the eponymous high street rental chain.

IMG

International Management Group: The corporate face of the sports management guru, Mark McCormack. IMG is the latest name to be linked with Manchester United as a potential bidder.

The company has sales of about £650 million a year and employs some 2,000 people in about 28 countries.

Mr McCormack's group is the largest independent producer of televised sports programmes through its Trans World International division as well as representing sports personalities such as the golfer Nick Faldo and tennis stars Andre Agassi and Martina Navratilova.

Since its formation with names such as Arnold Palmer and Gary Player in the early 1960s, IMG has expanded its business to take in the management of classical music events and it now owns two international modelling agencies.

UN

United News and Media: Formed from the merger of the Express newspaper group, United, and Lord Hollick's MAI group, United News is still going through changes which resulted from the £3 billion tie up. This includes a multi-million pound shake-up at the Express titles.

The company is regarded as looking for acquisitions — it has been named as a potential bidder for the Blenheim exhibitions group — and is routinely linked with media targets. As the owner of the ITV companies, Meridian and Anglia, United is already one of the major players in Channel 3 and is a stakeholder in the planned Channel 5.

Much of the earnings of United — unique for bringing a socialist and a Conservative peer, Lord's Hollick and Stevens, together in the same boardroom — come from America, where it has a strong trade publication and exhibitions operation. The company also operates a money broking business.

VCI

VCI: The video distribution company chaired by the Channel 4 boss, Michael Grade, made informal overtures to Manchester United last summer. These approaches were never put to shareholders.

But City sources say VCI was ready to dig deep — it is valued on the stock market at less than the football club — and offer about £300 million for United — a figure which was regarded as too small by the Manchester board.

VCI, which last year acquired the André Deutsch publishing imprint, has already spent about £10 million to buy the rights to Manchester United books and videos. The company has produced videos featuring "famous reds" such as Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs. More traditional offerings from the company include videos of the BBC's Top Gear series, as well as Mr Bean, Men Behaving Badly and Les Miserables — In Concert.

WHITBREAD

Whitbread: Britain's fourth biggest brewer with sales of nearly £2.3 billion a year and brands such as Boddington's and Stella Artois has been refocusing its business on the retailing side of wining and dining, with restaurant chains such as Brewers Fayre, Café Rouge, Beef-eater and the David Lloyd group of leisure clubs.

The company runs the Thresher off-licence chain and is also one of the largest owners of pubs in the country. It has been building up its estate of largely mid-price hotels, and runs 16 Marriott hotels in the UK.

Whitbread claims to be the second largest operator in Britain's eating out market — after McDonald's — with about 1,000 outlets around the country. Its other major fast food brands include Pizza Hut, which it runs as a joint venture with PepsiCo of the US.

Belgian fury as paedophile case judge is dropped

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIUM'S justice system was under renewed public assault last night after a much-praised local magistrate investigating the paedophile scandal was removed from the case for accepting a plate of spaghetti paid for by campaigners against child abuse.

Jean-Marc Connerotte was ordered to stand down by the Cour de Cassation — the highest court in Belgium — amid widespread public demonstrations in his support, after lawyers acting for the leading suspects claimed his impartiality had been compromised.

This is the second prominent case from which Mr Connerotte has been removed. Three years ago he was taken off an investigation into the murder of the former deputy prime minister André Coombs, on the instructions of the chief magistrate, just as he seemed about to crack the case. The apparent reason was rivalry between judicial districts.

In the palace of justice yesterday, Oscar Stranard, the president of the tribunal of five judges, said: "The decision was made given that the impartiality of magistrates is fundamental."

The ruling occurred despite intense pressure, including an appeal from the prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, for the judges to be "creative" in applying the law with tolerance, and a petition signed by more than 300,000 Belgians.

Thousands attended weekend demonstrations, and the Belgian railway network has promised to subsidise the fares of those attending mass demonstrations next weekend.

The ruling revived criticism of the judiciary for failing to make progress in high-profile investigations.

There was widespread outrage that Mr Connerotte, who has become a national hero for his energetic conduct of the case, should be dropped at the behest of lawyers acting for the reviled Marc Dutroux and Michel Nihoul.

The parents of the four young girls allegedly abducted and murdered by Mr Dutroux and his associates demonstrated angrily with a crowd of up to 700 people outside the court.

There were chants of "Assassins, assassins," as lawyers entered the building, and banners saying: "For the sake of our children, judge wisely."

Paul Marchal, the father of a teenage girl kidnapped and killed by the gang, said: "It is the beginning of the end. Justice is dead in Belgium."

Gino Russo, the father of an eight-year-old girl who starved to death in a cell in Mr Dutroux's basement, said: "This decision spits on our daughters' graves."

Mr Connerotte attended a fund-raising dinner organised by a group campaigning against child abuse three weeks ago, even though he had, as investigating magistrate, to prepare files outlining both sides of the case.

The horror of the investigation and the admissions of the accused have left no one prepared to offer Mr Dutroux the benefit of the doubt. He is routinely described in the Belgian media as a monster.

The court ruled that the investigation should remain based in Mr Connerotte's home district of Neufchâteau, with the rest of the team — including his close colleague, the prosecutor Michel Bourlet — remaining in place.

Allies approach Afghan capital

continued from page 1

Ten miles along it, the rusting carcasses of Soviet tanks rest in the river bed. None penetrated further. Unlike the tarmac highways which are littered with useless Soviet hardware, the old royal road from Doshi up to the wide valley of Bamyan was never reached by the Russians after that first fatal attempt. Now this part of the road is a no-go area for the Taliban as well.

In the wide Bamyan valley, 8,000ft above sea-level, the road enters the heartland of the Hazara people, an ancient Shi'ite community almost wiped out by Genghis Khan in the 13th century. Abdul Karim Khalili, their leader, was one of the trio of anti-Taliban leaders who met yesterday, along with Cdr Masoud and General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek warlord.

Gen Dostam recognised the ousted government yesterday, but held back from joining a military alliance with its forces around Kabul.

The Russians ran occasional convoys to Bamyan on the second stage of the rocky road down to Kabul. But the Taliban were driven from here, too, at the weekend. Mr Khalili's forces now control Chorband, a key town on the hills above the main road to the capital.

Known as Hizbe Wahadat, Mr Khalili's forces were part

of the mojahedin armies that took over Kabul in 1992 when the government of Mohammad Najibullah fell. They later broke with Cdr Masoud. Faced with the greater threat of the Taliban, they have now buried their enmity to become a Massoud ally.

Sitting cross-legged on a carpeted floor during lunch, Kurban Ali Erfani, Hizbe Wahadat's second-in-command, told us why. With him was one of the 56 Hazara ayatollahs. As Shi'ites, the Hazara fear the militant Sunni fundamentalism of the Taliban. "We accept women working and girls going to school. We don't want to withdraw from the world," Mr Erfani said.

The Taliban's Pashtun nationalism is another source of alarm. "In talks with the Taliban we called for respect for equal rights, but had no positive response," he added.

The third, and perhaps greatest, factor is that the Hazara's leader, Abdul Ali Mazari, was captured by the Taliban last year and killed in custody. The Taliban claimed he had grabbed a Kalashnikov rifle while in a helicopter. But reporters had earlier seen him tied up in a room in a state of terror.

Hizbe Wahadat's alliance with Cdr Masoud and Gen Dostam deprives the Taliban of their last potential ally. Every fighting group is ranged against them.



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# Jury told of corruption and fear at secure hospital Patient cleared of taking hostages

Martin Wainwright

**A** PSYCHIATRIC patient was cleared of violent hostage-taking yesterday after a court heard him described as a whistleblower who had exposed corruption, drugs, prostitution and racism inside a leading secure hospital.

The jury at Liverpool crown court took two hours to throw out charges that Byron Tomlinson, aged 36, a victim of paranoia and other disorders, had held a consultant psychologist and a patient at knife-point in Ashworth hospital, Maghull, Merseyside.

Merseyside police officers because they were an independent party. Mr Tomlinson admitted losing control before the incident — because he was denied his visitor but also because of five months' experience of Ashworth's Owen Ward.

## How to save a life and ruin a marriage, by Mrs Merson

Alex Bellis

**F**OOTBALLER Paul Merson's recovery from addiction to drink, drugs and gambling saved his life but wrecked his marriage, he and his wife said yesterday.

The papers, that's not my husband, is it? "Everyone has forgotten about the person who lives with them, and it has taken its toll on me," she said.

now after everything I don't like this life and God knows Lorraine can't like it. It is so boring. "Lorraine needs a life. She wants to go out for meals but I can't risk going to a pub or a restaurant."

# Quarantine laws are under pressure as senior vets back change in rabies rules

Stuart Miller

**P**RESSURE for a change in Britain's animal quarantine rules will intensify tomorrow when a group of eminent veterinary surgeons demands that the Government scrap the world's toughest rabies controls.

coming round to the opinion that the existing rules, enforced since 1901, have become untenable. Pressure for change has the support of senior service personnel and diplomats, including Chris Patten, governor of Hong Kong, who this week described the rules as preposterous. Animal welfare groups, including the RSPCA, have also called for a review, and a report by MPs last year backed change.

Jonathan Miller with Sam yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODWIN

## 'Solitary confinement for six months and no exercise — it is cruel, costly and unavailing'

**T**O STRANGERS, Sam appears to be a typical bouncy seven-year-old mongrel. But safely back home in Hampstead, north London, a week after being collected from quarantine kennels in Surrey, he is only now getting back to his former self, according to his owner, Jonathan Miller, writes Stuart Miller.

Sam had had to undergo rabies vaccinations and tests when the Millers moved to New York but still had to spend six months in the quarantine kennels on their return to Britain. Mr Miller blames the system rather than the kennels for the change in Sam. "It is cruel. Even in these kennels, which appeared to follow best practice and were recommended to me, animals are kept in what is effectively solitary confinement, and they are not allowed to be exercised."

"We visited Sam several times and my kids were distraught at the conditions; it was like a prison. Dogs were barking constantly and in a pathetic state. And they don't understand why they are being put through this kind of treatment."

## Appeal judges reject prosecution attempt to obtain a retrial of Colin Wallace

Richard Norton-Taylor

**T**HE Court of Appeal yesterday dismissed a prosecution attempt to obtain a retrial of Colin Wallace, the former army information officer who exposed a covert black propaganda operation in Northern Ireland.

ago was quashed last week — would not be in the interests of justice. In the ruling, Mr Wallace, aged 53, repeated his calls for a full inquiry into the conduct of his trial. He said evidence had been "manufactured and manipulated".

friend, Jonathan Lewis. He also said police documents about alleged criminal activities since passed to his lawyers, were not revealed at the original trial.

Ann Curno QC, for the prosecution, argued that the question of whether Mr Wallace was in fact responsible for Mr Lewis's death remained unresolved.

before he drowned in the river Arun, at Arundel, West Sussex, and not — as was argued at the trial — some hours before, with the body hidden either in Mr Wallace's home or in the boot of his car.

# Britain rejects EC plans for cuts in fishing fleet

John Palmer in Luxembourg

**T**HE British Government last night rejected out of hand European Commission plans for sweeping cuts in the British fishing fleet in an effort to combat the depletion of fish stocks.

The fisheries minister, Tony Baldry, told a meeting in Luxembourg yesterday that Britain could not agree to any substantial cuts until new rules had been introduced to ban the transfer of British fishing quotas to other countries.

simple fact is that there are far too many fishermen pursuing far too few fish," she said. "We can either tackle this through the brutal law of the market, or we can plan to bring our fishing capacity more into line with what the fish stocks demand."

## Bottomley endorses Cubist tenet of 'disturbing art'

Modem rallying cry by minister makes experts' eyebrows rise

Dan Gialster Arts Correspondent

**L**AST week it was light opera and the spirit of Gilbert and Sullivan. Yesterday Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, embraced the modern with a quotation from the Cubist painter Georges Braque: "All art is meant to disturb."

read gained attention with her concrete cast of a terraced house in east London. However, art experts were divided yesterday on the validity of Mrs Bottomley's remarks. The three winners of the Turner prize, "It's slightly naive to think that these artists are challenging or part of the avant-garde," critic Andrew Graham-Dixon told Radio 4.

## Court slashes driving ban for anorexic star of Street soap

Claire Longrigg

**A** CORONATION Street star has been given a drastically reduced driving ban for speeding, so she can continue to get treatment for anorexia.



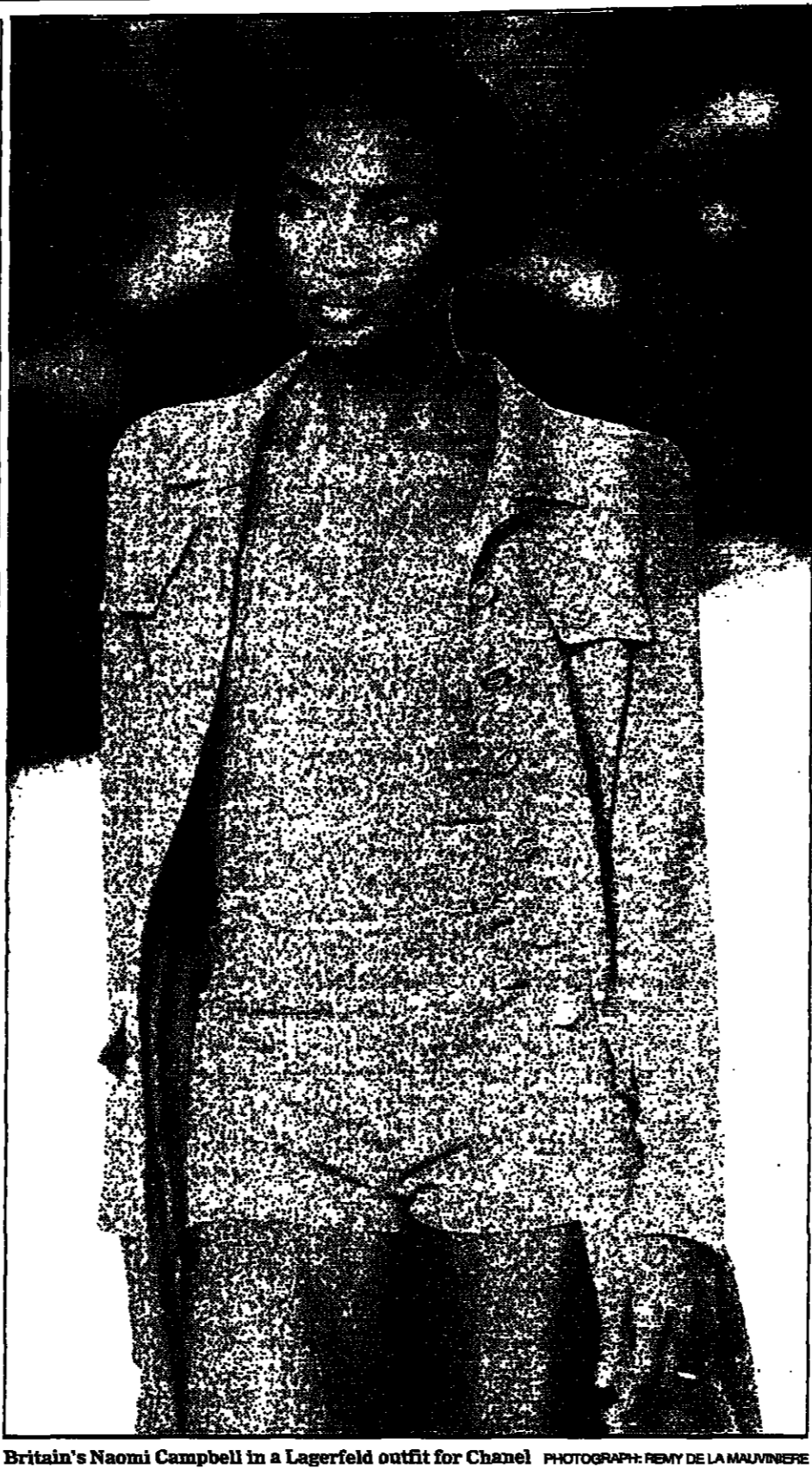
John Galliano (left), moving to Dior from Givenchy, and Alexander McQueen, taking over at Givenchy

# Britons become cocks of the Paris catwalk

Sally Brampton in Paris

**B**RITISH talent scored twice in the halls of Parisian fashion yesterday when flamboyant designer John Galliano landed the top job at France's oldest and most lucrative house, Christian Dior, and Alexander McQueen, who invented bumster trousers, was appointed to fill Galliano's shoes at Givenchy.

Yesterday a gale of humour blasted through the chilly world of high fashion when Karl Lagerfeld sent models Claudia Schiffer and Stella Tennant out on a huge conveyor belt wearing black and blonde doll wigs. The famously blonde Schiffer had become the raven-haired siren and Tennant the blonde bimbo.



Britain's Naomi Campbell in a Lagerfeld outfit for Chanel PHOTOGRAPH: REMY DE LA MALVILLE

Advertisement for Birt's hair care products, featuring a woman's face and text: "Birt's... hair care...".

Foreign Office working party imposes new safeguards to preserve 'special character, style, ethos and quality', Andrew Culf reports

# Birt's World Service change backed

**J**OHN Birt, the BBC's director general, last night won his battle to restructure the World Service, but faced 20 conditions imposed by the Foreign Office in an attempt to safeguard its quality.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said the conclusions of a joint working party with the BBC would ensure the maintenance of the service's "special character, style, ethos and quality".

But campaigners opposed to Mr Birt's plan said they were disappointed by the outcome, which would jeopardise the service's quality.

The conditions — described by the FO as new safeguards — include the provision of a dedicated World Service unit within the BBC's domestic news-gathering operation and tough scrutiny by the corporation's governors.

The announcement — following a 30-minute meeting yesterday between Mr Rifkind, Mr Birt and Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman — represented a severe setback for World Service campaigners.

They were opposed to the merger of the service's news and English language programme production with the BBC's domestic departments.

John Tusa, former managing director of the service, said: "The BBC has still not produced any good reasons why it is a good idea. It is macho management and nothing to do with good broadcasting."

"They are not safeguards — they are things they are not taking away from the World Service. It is Alice in Wonderland stuff."

Steven Parker, of the Save the World Service campaign, said its distinctive ethos would be lost in the merger.

Four of the five independent

experts on the working party said the changes could bring substantial advantages. John Wilson, former BBC controller of editorial policy, was the lone dissenting voice.

The BBC produced no evidence of cost savings from restructuring and the National Audit Office is to examine the new financial mechanisms in six months.

The working group is to be reconvened next autumn to ensure quality has been maintained and promised savings achieved.

During the controversy Mr Birt had been accused by MPs of behaving like a "kinder of a cavaler attitude" towards the service.

But with last night's broad endorsement from the Foreign Office, he was in conciliatory mood.

"The process has been healthy and constructive. It has strengthened the World Service, helped safeguard the quality and ethos of a service we all value and deepened the relationship between the BBC and the Foreign Office."

Sir Christopher said: "We welcome the clear and explicit safeguards contained in the working group's report."

Sam Younger, managing director of the service, welcomed the outcome, even though he had considered resignation in July. He had been told of the restructuring the day before the public announcement.

"With all the arrangements now in place, I am confident we can move ahead and make sure we get the benefits from full participation in the restructured BBC."

Robin Cook, shadow foreign secretary, said the report was a welcome advance. "We will comprehensively review the impact of any changes during the first year of a Labour government."



John Birt: 'Healthy and constructive process' | Malcolm Rifkind: 'concern for quality' | John Tusa: 'It is Alice in Wonderland stuff' | Sir Christopher Bland: 'welcomed safeguards'

## Fudge claims denied over report that is 'music to the ears' of senior management at BBC

**T**HE conclusion of the working group and its panel of five independent experts was music to the ears of the BBC's senior management.

Its declaration that the restructuring "could bring substantial advantages for the World Service" was a vindication of John Birt's approach.

The list of 20 safeguards "imposed" by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, created few difficulties for Mr Birt and the BBC's chairman, Sir Christopher Bland. Many had been con-

ceded, most already exist.

The FO denied it represented a fudge, saying the safeguards "should provide genuine reassurances to those who have raised understandable concerns".

The main conclusions are:

- Dedicated World Service news unit within the domestic BBC News directorate.
- World Service commissioners to have extensive powers to specify programmes they want.
- A guarantee that all senior appointments be agreed with World Service management.
- Service to retain extensive powers over foreign correspondents.
- English-language staff and those in foreign language services to continue being located on the same site when Bush House lease expires in 2004.
- Delines to ensure separation of grant-in-aid World Service expenditure and licence-fee funded BBC.
- Continuing BBC and FO appraisal of proposed savings.

The working group and four of the five experts concluded the arrangements would "ensure the maintenance of the special character, style, ethos and quality of the World Service's programmes."

But John Wilson, former BBC controller of editorial policy, said these would only be ensured through the maintaining operational control of the news and current affairs team.

The group welcomed plans reinforcing the role of BBC governors in overseeing the work of the service and the establishment of an independent advisory panel.

The other working party experts were Baroness Hogg, former aide to John Major; David Glencross, former chief executive of the Independent Television Commission; and Stephen Claypole, managing director of APTV. Nicholas Colchester, of the Economist Intelligence Unit and the fifth panel member, died last month.

Leader comment, page 6



Floral protest left outside the World Service headquarters in Bush House, London, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

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## All-party deal is set to cut out Sinn Fein

**D**AVID SHARROCK, Ireland Correspondent

**A**BREAKTHROUGH in Northern Ireland's troubled all-party talks was on the cards last night as the main nationalist and Unionist parties agreed new proposals, signalling a further stage in the political isolation of Sinn Fein.

Talks were continuing late into the night at Castle Buildings as the threat of a resumption of violence by loyalists in response to the IRA's renewed bombing campaign appeared to have given the negotiations a new impetus.

At the weekend the Pro-

## News in brief

### Mother 'confessed' to killing her son

**A** MOTHER appeared to confess to the murder of her six-year-old son in a letter she showed to another woman, a jury heard yesterday. Ruth Neave, aged 28, wrote: "I cannot believe I have done it," Northampton crown court was told. She later said the letter was a mistake and that her son Rikki had been killed by someone else.

Ms Neave, who denies killing Rikki in Peterborough in November 1994, also offered to a friend to leave information on a police answering machine pinning the blame for death on someone else, the jury heard.

Neighbours said Ms Neave behaved in an odd fashion for a woman whose son had recently died in horrific circumstances. She appeared fascinated by the murder and told them details about how the body had been frozen and bathed, how Rikki's clothes had been folded and left nearby, and how his body had been moved in a child's buggy. The case continues.

### Riding row splits town

**A** ROW over women participating in an ancient riding ceremony which has split the town of Hawick, Borders, led yesterday to the resignation of the Provost, the local first citizen. Tom Hogg, who chairs the council in the historic Borders textile centre, stepped down after failing to reconcile two furious factions, which he said "are tearing my town apart".

An emergency meeting will select a new provost to grapple with the argument over women taking part in the annual Common Riding, which sees a hectic gallop round the traditional boundaries of the burgh. The appearance of four women at the summer pageant this year has led to the ostracising of councillors, splits in families and insults like "scum" and "tart" on Hawick's streets.

Mr Hogg, who has been identified with the traditionalist, man-of-action, said: "I have a deep belief in the traditions and customs from which Hawick has grown, and I cannot and will not betray these now. God knows that I've tried every minute of these last six months to resolve the issue that's tearing my town apart, but it remains unresolved." — *Martin Watworth*

### Aids death doctor 'no risk'

**F**AMILY doctors in the Wigan area were yesterday sent information to reassure patients after it was discovered that a local hospital doctor had died of Aids.

The registrar in anaesthetics died on Friday after a short illness. After examining his work and taking advice locally and nationally, Wigan and Bolton health authority said there was "no conceivable risk" to patients or colleagues. However, local GPs have been given details about the case, and an information line has been set up. The number is 01942-822217. — *Chris Mihill*

### Parents fear TV sponsors

**P**ARENTS fear sponsorship in children's television programmes may increase to an unacceptable level, according to research published today by the Independent Television Commission.

There were concerns that sponsors' power would grow, enabling them to dictate what programmes would be broadcast, and that products would appear in programmes.

Parents of youngsters aged between eight and 12 felt some sponsorship could lead to unreasonable financial demands from their children and suggested a ban on sponsorship by manufacturers of expensive toys and clothing.

The commission's sponsorship code prohibits product placement and references to advertisers or sponsors during programmes. — *Andrew Culf*

### 'In negotiations everyone has to move a little to reach agreement'

**H**OURS of negotiation between the Ulster Unionists and the SDLP yesterday delivered an agreement for an agenda for the first full session of talks.

It is a big step forward, since the parties have been working on the issue for more than a month. The deal was last night being put to the rest of the parties in a round-table session that seemed likely to go on late into the night.

It was not clear how close the parties were to securing a deal on the most contentious issue — decommissioning. There have been hints from the Ulster Unionists that, with Sinn Fein out of the picture for the foreseeable future, they might have more room to manoeuvre on the weapons question.

The Ulster Unionist deputy leader, John Taylor, said: "We will be making no move from our position, but of course in negotiations everyone has to move a little to reach agreement."

Police in the Irish Republic yesterday arrested Nessan Quinlivan, who is wanted in Britain on terrorism charges.

Mr Quinlivan, who was released from an Irish prison last year as part of Dublin's programme of shoring up the IRA ceasefire, was arrested at his home in Limerick. He is on £70,000 bail while his lawyers challenge British extradition warrants.

Mr Adams spoke the other day about a political vacuum.

# Sierra Leone's child fighters lay down their arms and pick up their books

They killed alongside adults; now they are experiencing childhood, writes **Claudia McElroy** in Bo

THE classroom's sea of faces wear expressions ranging from lively interest and bewilderment to boredom and incomprehension. Yet for most of these youngsters at a centre for ex-combatants, grappling with basic literacy is better than life at the front.

"Demobilisation is mostly on a voluntary basis and children come directly to the project. They are all tired of fighting," said Father Mick Fickey, one of CAW's founders.

**'I learnt to enjoy killing; the sight of blood would give me zeal to go further'**

school. After six months, most go on to further education or vocational training, such as carpentry, mechanics or tailoring. Some, such as Mohamed, are more ambitious. "I'd like to be a lawyer," he said. "Then I could avenge my parents' deaths better than by fighting."

Some children are being prevented from demobilising by their commanders. "The war is about looting and material gain," said Mr Komneh. "Children often serve that purpose for fighters, be they army or RUF; some are sent off to dig diamonds."

What began as a small rebel incursion from neighbouring Liberia in 1991 grew into a brutal campaign of terror against civilians, perpetrated by both rebels and renegade soldiers, which has cost an estimated 60,000 lives and forced almost half the country's 4.5 million people to flee their homes.

## News in brief

### Chinese mother to defend activist son

THE mother of a Chinese dissident charged with plotting against the government has said she will defend her son in court. Wang Jingyun said yesterday that the charges against Wang Dan, a leader of the 1989 democracy movement, did not stand up.

### Unemployment crisis looms

THE number of unemployed people in China could rise by more than half the present figure to 268 million in four years, the state-run China Daily reported yesterday.

### Fit Clinton says less is more

PRESIDENT CLINTON tried to silence Republican critics of the secrecy surrounding his medical records yesterday by insisting that his health was "very good" and that he had never contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

### Jakarta urged to ban alcohol

THE leader of a powerful group of Indonesian Muslim scholars has called for a ban on alcohol following government measures to control its distribution, the official Antara news agency said yesterday.

### Attorney-general sued

A SAN FRANCISCO club which sold cannabis to sick and dying people is to sue California's attorney-general, accusing him of misusing his office to sabotage a campaign to permit medical use of the drug.

### Germany's men of letters

MORE than 300 German intellectuals, including most of the country's best-known writers, have joined a campaign to block a spelling reform aimed at simplifying the German language.

### Big mama, big baby

PEOPLE likely to get fat may show the first signs of what's to come when they are three months old, doctors have found.

**A man who had been jailed for sectarian killings said my film's violence would encourage young people to imitate it. I was struck dumb by the irony. This film was about him.** Thaddeus O'Sullivan

**Arts, G2 page 7**

## French turn to the extremes

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

MAINSTREAM French parties were accused yesterday of failing ordinary people, after 65 per cent of voters in a by-election at the weekend backed the Communist Party or the National Front.

The Socialist Party's defeat is particularly humiliating because its candidate, Bernard Kouchner, is a former minister who was nominated by party headquarters to stand for the seat.

## France puts faith in 'nuclear pill'

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FRANCE began distributing iodine tablets yesterday to tens of thousands of people living within three miles of nuclear power stations — to a mixed reception.

The health minister, Hervé Gayraud, announced the iodine campaign in April, on the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. Until now, tablets have been stocked only at nuclear power stations and in hospitals.



Forensic experts dig up a mass grave at Tibovici, north of Sarajevo, yesterday where 17 Muslims killed by Bosnian Serbs in 1992 were buried. They also found the remains of tyres used to set the bodies on fire. PHOTOGRAPH BY RIKARD LARMA

## Border guards watch their backs

Russia's frontier patrols are trying to hold the line in Central Asia and the Caucasus, reports **David Hearst** in Moscow

NO ONE watched the troops of the fundamentalist Islamic Taliban edge northward, before their recent military setbacks, with greater trepidation than the 16,500 border troops Russia has posted on the Afghan-Tajikistan border.

penetrate they are often called "glass borders". So the border guards are forced to police a front line much further ahead. They have the responsibility of guarding the empire, without the power to do so. And Moscow can no longer pay.

Arts, G2 page 7



Burqa-clad widows, whose husbands have died in the fighting, wait for food at a distribution centre of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN MOORE

# Iranians and Iraqis enter Kurdish fray

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

**K**URDISH factions were engaged in heavy fighting near Irbil in northern Iraq yesterday amid claims that Iraqi troops and Iranian Revolutionary Guards were fighting alongside the rival peshmergas.

In a startling reversal of fortune, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) — which retook Sulaymaniyah at the weekend — swept on to retake two more towns from Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces. United Nations officials and guards in Iraqi Kurdistan reported.

The sources said Jalal Talabani's PUK guerrillas had now recaptured Degala and Koi Sanjaq after taking control of the strategic Dokan Dam area, the site of a big hydroelectric power project.

"They [PUK rebels] seem to be advancing. Fighting is continuing and both sides are using artillery and rocket launchers," one UN official told Reuters by telephone from Irbil.

From being driven into the mountains or across the border to Iran, PUK peshmergas have swept back to the outskirts of Irbil, the site of their initial defeat on August 31 by the KDP backed by the forces of Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi forces are positioned just to the south of Irbil, but so far the government has not ordered them into battle, perhaps fearing another aggressive response from the United States.

# Suharto tightens his grip on rivals

John Aglionby in Jakarta reports on measures to curb the opposition as elections approach

**I**NDONESIA'S limited democracy is coming under further strain from new measures by President Suharto to make sure the ruling Golkar party keeps its majority in the general election next year.

He is pushing for mass outdoor campaign rallies to be banned, has ordered the armed forces to suppress all political dissent, and is clamping down on the domestic press.

The government says there is no censorship, but outspoken publications are liable to be shut down at a moment's notice.

Since the Jakarta riots in July, editors have been summoned to the ministry of information to be reminded how to report political stories. Last month media executives had the message reinforced on a 10-day state ideology course.

# Murdoch's black ship makes waves in Japanese media

The insatiable media tycoon (right) has sailed into a storm with his deal to enter stagnant waters previously kept strictly off limits to foreigners, John Watts in Tokyo reports



**I**N THE aftermath of Rupert Murdoch's purchase of a big stake in a Japanese terrestrial television station, the country's media establishment is trying to come to terms with the presence of the most powerful foreigner in their midst for decades.

Sightings of Murdoch-owned black ships have also been made by a number of newspapers and media analysts, usually followed by cries of alarm at the perilous state of the so-called 1955 system, under which the big companies, protected from overseas competition by the language barrier and strict rules regarding foreign ownership, have been able to dominate Japanese television for more than 40 years.

But of greater concern is the 195 million TV Asahi deal. "The shocking thing was that one of the world's biggest media operators was suddenly allowed to step into territory previously off limits to foreigners," said Yoshihiro Ota, a media specialist at Sofia University in Tokyo.

Japan's strict media ownership regulations had always made it a difficult market to enter, but the Posts and Telecommunication Industry appears to have unofficially welcomed Murdoch because they think he can help rationalise the industry.

By having Mr Murdoch as his partner, Mr Murdoch was able to circumvent the Japanese broadcasting law, which limits non-Japanese shareholdings in television companies to 20 per cent. The limit has done nothing to allay fears.

Mr Murdoch's grandson of a Korean immigrant to Japan, established Softbank in 1981. The company now controls half of Japan's software market and has diversified in a rapid and aggressive expansion strategy.

# Nuclear spy 'did not harm Israel'

Derek Brown in Tel Aviv

**T**HE Nobel peace laureate Joseph Rotblat yesterday hailed Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli nuclear technician jailed as a spy, as a whistle-blower who had helped rather than harmed his country.

What he has done has not significantly harmed the state of Israel, said Professor Rotblat, who helped to develop the first atomic bomb and later established the anti-nuclear Pugwash movement.

He won the Nobel peace prize last year. The joint winner of the previous year's prize was Shimon Peres, commonly regarded as the father of Israel's secret nuclear programme, who was prime minister when Vanunu was illegally abducted and jailed.

Vanunu, who worked in the nuclear centre at Dimona, on the northern fringe of the Negev desert, told the Sunday Times in 1986 that Israel had secretly developed a nuclear capacity and had built an arsenal of 200 weapons.

He was lured from London to Rome by an Israeli agent called Cindy. He was kidnapped in Rome and shipped to Israel in a crate.

Neither Britain nor Italy has complained of the crimes committed on their territory by the Mossad secret agents.

# A cheap rent could cost you your life

In the second of three articles on Bombay, Suzanne Goldenberg tells how ruthless landlords get rid of their tenants

**T**WO small rooms and a dark hallway are not worth dying for. Ramesh Kini gave his life for them unwillingly; now his widow's efforts to punish his killers have caused a sensation that has gone beyond her sedate, tree-lined neighbourhood in north Bombay.

the consequences of her challenge to Sena. "I lost everything with Ramesh, what else was there to be afraid of?"

For the Kins the terror began eight years ago, when they received their first eviction notice. It intensified in 1993 after Ramesh refused a cash offer; it was not enough for a new home.

Every evening armed thugs were waiting beneath Ramesh's balcony

Two days after his death, Sheela Kini went against custom — Hindu widows isolate themselves during mourning — and held a press conference. She accused the nephew and presumed heir of Bal Thackeray, Shiv Sena's chief, of ordering Ramesh's death at the landlord's behest.

more effective: "[Since] this case no one has threatened to throw out any tenants".

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Elizabeth Gille

The book of the living

In 1994, the author and editor Elizabeth Gille, who has died aged 59, published an unusual novel about cancer...

manuscripts saying "Here's my latest. I'm sure you'll be able to work on it for publication..."



The date of my death is set. That does not prevent me from laughing

ing in Montparnasse, financial crashes, Russian restaurants and night clubs. And the rise of Hitler...

of her mother Irène, and with her knowledge of her own fate pushed to the back seat of her in 1944...

peopled by the memory of her mother and friends and relatives who had perished in the Holocaust...



Elizabeth Gille... search for survival through solitude

Tom ap Rees

To find the force that drives the flower



Growing leeks defiantly in Cambridge... Tom ap Rees

TOM AP REES, who was killed, aged 65, in a cycling accident in Cambridge, was a plant biochemist who communicated his enthusiasm to thousands of students during 30 years of university teaching...

and modifying sugars and organic acids within plant cells, how starch is made in starch grains, and the action of respiration in plants...

Llandoverly College, of which he was proud to be a trustee. From three years in the Royal Signals - he rose to the rank of lieutenant - he adopted a mode of dress, a contempt for low moral fibre, and sense of responsibility for the well-being of his subordinates...

he was always asking "have you any problems?" This was no idle question: he would drop whatever he was doing to put things right...

Birthdays Lord Baden-Powell, vice-president, Scouts Association, 60; Richard Carpenter, singer, 60; Craig Chalmers, rugby player, 28; Andrew Cole, footballer, 25; Howard Colvin, architectural historian, 77; De Peter Cook, director, British Geological Survey, 58; Alan Ebdon, trumpeter, 62; Keith Fordyce, radio presenter, 68; Prof John Kenneth Galbraith, economist, 88; Sir Julian Hodge, merchant banker, 92; Mike Jackson, rock singer, 43; Alan Jones, chief executive, BICC, 67; Tessa Keewick, director, Centre for Policy Studies, 54; Catherine Lampert, director, Whitechapel Art Gallery, 50; Dame Anne Muelier, chancellor, De Montfort University, 66; Baroness Perry, president, Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, 65; Peter Phillips, director, Tallis Scholars, 43; Mario Puzo, novelist, 76; Prof Charles Rees, organic chemist, 69; Arthur Schlesinger, US historian, 78; Baroness Serota, penal reformer, deputy speaker, House of Lords, 77; Chris Smith, cricketer, 68; Rossio, Tom, 44; David Trimble, MP, leader, Ulster Unionists, 52; The Duchess of York, 37.

Letter

Lucy Munby writes: Frida Knight's work for peace was the thread that ran through her life (obituary, October 4). She actively supported CND when living at Reading and founded Cambridge Against the Missile Bases when she returned to Cambridge...

Ethel Cain

At the third stroke, it will be the speaking clock, very precisely

ETHEL (Jane) Cain, who has died aged 87, was unwilling away the spring of 1936 at her General Post Office switchboard at London's Victoria exchange when she made a telephone call which changed her life...

into 27-year-old Ethel. No longer an obscure telephone operator from Croydon, Cain became the girl with the golden voice, national star and a hot tip for Pinewood cinema roles...

parts. Within weeks of winning the voice job (and its 10-guinea prize), she had swapped her 50 shillings-a-week job at the telephone exchange for the boards of London's New Theatre; and when she had to re-record TIM on more modern equipment in 1938, she negotiated a healthy fee...

The sound of time... Ethel Cain recording in the 1930s



The sound of time... Ethel Cain recording in the 1930s

Death Notices OWENS, Rev'd Ashley, on 11th October 1996 peacefully at St James' Rectory, Farnborough, Hants. Ashley was aged 76. He was a devoted husband of Lindy, loving father of four, and grandfather of six. All families cordially invited to funeral at St James' Rectory, Farnborough on Wednesday, October 16th at 10.30am. Burial at Farnborough Old Church, Farnborough, on Friday October 18th at 11.00am. Contributions to St James' Rectory may be sent before 12.00 noon to Rev. Ashley Owens, 10, Lupton Ave., L16 6JL, 01534 246848.

Jackdaw

COMPUTER Virus: Your computer has become infected with an unknown virus, and it has wiped your assignment clean! Possibility: The probability of encountering a computer virus is extremely high, especially when using college PCs. Comments: It's bound to happen and lecturers are usually pretty sympathetic. Success rating: 100 per cent. This is a short-term winner that will get you that extra week that you need. Can be used at least once per term. Amnesia: You simply forgot to get it done. Possibility: It can happen.

Essay excuse

Comments: Your tutor will not be impressed, but at least you're being honest. Success Rating: 0-30 per cent. The more flustered you are, the better chance of succeeding, not a good excuse. Loved: You tried to finish your dream about your tutor. Yes - you love them! Possibility: Your lecturers probably fancy themselves as a bit of a horn blower, charismatic, intelligent, witty, who wouldn't find them attractive? Comments: Seducing your flabby middle-aged lecturer to gain extra marks and essay extensions? Are you mad? Success Rating: 0-100 per cent. This is a make or break plan that could result in you having to perform a few extraordinary activities with someone older than your parents. Mitigating circumstances: Something dreadful has happened. You can't say what it is very personal - but it is dreadful. Possibility: These things do happen (whatever they are). Comments: Lay it on thick: wail and moan. Hint at vague

In touch

DEAR - Thank you for calling my office to voice your support for a petition to recall me from Congress. You may be interested to know that the state of Indiana does not have any recall petition mechanism in place. You might wish to contact your representatives in the Indiana General Assembly to indicate your support for establishing such a measure. Please feel free to contact me at any time on matters of concern to you. Yours, Steve Buyer. From a letter sent out by Representative Steve Buyer (Republican, Ind.). Some of his constituents had organised a drive to recall him from Congress, accusing him of not doing enough to bring an end to a government shutdown. Last winter. Reprinted in Harper's

Dear Mary

Q. RECENTLY at a golf club in France I left, by mistake, my small camera on a shelf in a large room full of caddies and players. After lunch and

18 holes, I remembered my camera and asked the caddy master, whom I knew well, if he had seen it. He had picked it up from where I had left it and was glad to find the owner. I returned to England that night, and the following day (the camera having not left my possession) I finished the reel with photos in my garden, then took it on to our village shop for processing. The next morning I collected the loosely-closed package containing the prints and negatives, and without opening it, set off for a long drive north. At lunch-time I looked at the photos and, to my astonishment, saw that between the 24 photos I had taken in France and the three in England, there were nine of an erect man's penis - evidently taken by the man himself. Dear Mary, how do I find out if the pretty shop assistant had looked at or been warned about the "indecent exposure"? I now think, possibly imagine, that she gave me - an elderly man - a good look, and if she did, how do I prevent or quash the

Love lives

question for 91 and 83 per cent respectively. Dizzy Mare, Prat, Skummy and Old Trout are just some of the insulting nicknames partners adopt for each other. Antimal-inspired names include: Pigeon, Badger, Bearskin and Rabbit while more unusual names include Bursley's Mother, Snod and Trotter. Welsh couples claim to make love the most, on average three times a week compared to the national average of twice a week. East Anglian couples make love the least, and 61 per cent of women from this area admit they have sex when they feel they are too tired, just to keep their partners happy. Couples from Wales have the most tempestuous relationships. How we live and love from a survey conducted by E-magazine

Emily Sheffield

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Hard bargain... Barings chief claims £2m bonus... Leeson's boss... Pensie... Godv... lauxhall's lives hope

السنة الحادية عشر

Hard bargaining at the factory gate, page 12

Investors 'missing out' in Hong Kong, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Leeson's boss says she was praised and promised payment on eve of bank's collapse

Barings chief claims £1/2m bonus

Tony May

THE boss of jailed Barings Bank trader Nick Leeson was offered a £500,000 bonus only one day before the institution collapsed...



Mary Walz attends the Industrial tribunal hearing in East London, to stake her claim for £500,000

something about maybe buying a painting. But, at a meeting with Mr Tuckey 48 hours later, she said she was told that she might be suffering from 'gaol by association'...

Wals had made a 'surprising claim'. 'What is surprising is Barings' global head of derivatives claims to be entitled to a bonus in respect of a period in which Barings' operation in Singapore made catastrophic losses...

whether or not you are culpable. Ms Walz was criticised in the Bank of England's report on the collapse for not monitoring Leeson's activities properly and for not fully understanding what he was doing.

for its best employees. Bonus payments had become 'custom and practice'. Ms Walz said that in 1992, her first year with Barings, she had a salary of £30,000 and a bonus of £160,000...

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

Notebook

One watchdog deserves a pat



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE reputation of Imro, the fund management regulator, may be associated in the public mind with the massive failure over the Maxwell group pension funds.

The Tories would like people to forget about it, but the green light given by the Government to transfers out of occupational pension schemes into private pension plans is the most broadly based financial scandal of recent times.

Pensions mis-sellers fined

Teresa Hunter

FOUR of Britain's leading blue-chip firms were fined a total of £405,000 yesterday as the pensions regulator handed down the first penalties arising from the mis-selling scandal.

By contrast, Imro's sister watchdog, the Personal Investment Authority, has yet to discipline any of the more than 3,000 firms whose business it oversees.

Investments Board. The instruction came after it emerged that changes to personal pensions in 1988 may have led more than 1.5 million people to switch from attractive company schemes to inferior insurance plans.

necessarily indicates that any client has been disadvantaged. But clearly we greatly regret that there were any deficiencies at all in our procedures.

NEW ZEALAND-born lawyer Phillip Thorpe, head of the city watchdog Imro, has again stolen the march on other watchdogs, taking action first against pension firms which hoodwinked employees into switching from company pension schemes into inferior private plans.

Alexander Consulting Group
Fined: £40,000
Failure to provide customers with fair and clear information

The Heath Consulting Company
Fined: £75,000
Did not disclose personal pension on file for life basis when comparing with company scheme

Willis Corroon Financial Planning
Fined: £25,000
Provided some customers with information which was potentially untrue

Godwins Limited
Fined: £200,000
Failure to ensure customers had balanced information requested to investors decision to transfer generally

Financial Adviser
LUMP SUM OR REGULAR MONTHLY PREMIUMS?
HUGE FINE OVER PENSION SALES

Vauxhall's £300m investment gives hope to Ellesmere Port

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

THOUSANDS of jobs will be safeguarded in Cheshire this morning when Vauxhall announces a £300 million investment in its Ellesmere Port car plant.

announcement as further evidence of a renaissance in UK car manufacturing. Trade secretary Ian Liddell-Grainger will cite the investment as evidence that the UK's car factories are competitive against world standards and are exporting successfully.

possibly by as much as 20 per cent. A third shift could also be required, creating several hundred jobs. Apart from securing the 3,500 jobs at Ellesmere Port, the decision to make the new Astra and light van also secures thousands of jobs in the component industry.

Under BA's proposals to the administrators, both it and TAT, BA's French subsidiary, would initially be kept as separate companies, owned by a new French holding company established by BA.

BA and Virgin Express make rival bids for debt-laden French carrier

Keith Harper Transport Editor

BRITISH Airways and Richard Branson's Virgin Express yesterday challenged the French air transport industry with separate bids for the troubled airline Air Liberté, which has debts of £300 million.

ing director, who would take responsibility for Air Liberté, said: "These two airlines combined will provide sufficient critical mass to achieve effective, credible competition in the best interests of French consumers."

and went into receivership last month, mainly because of rapid expansion in the face of competition. BA had written to the European Union, urging it to block a bid by AOM as entailing illegal use of state aid.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Switzerland, Turkey, USA, etc.

AIRBUS was in danger yesterday of losing out to Boeing again as USAir came closer to placing the biggest order by an American airline this year, writes Mark Tran in New York.

ing at more than \$5 billion (£3.3 billion). USAir, which is 20 per cent owned by British Airways, confirmed that it has been holding talks with Boeing, Airbus and McDonnell Douglas but declined to elaborate.

stated it was still in the running. "I think we've got the better, more popular aircraft." The order would be its first from USAir.

Boeing has beaten Airbus to the punch on several big orders, especially in Asia. Another defeat would constitute a heavy blow.

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

Birthdays

Death Notices

In Memoriam

Emily Sherman

High street squeeze on manufacturing and boost to sterling ease rates pressure

# Price rises at 30-year low

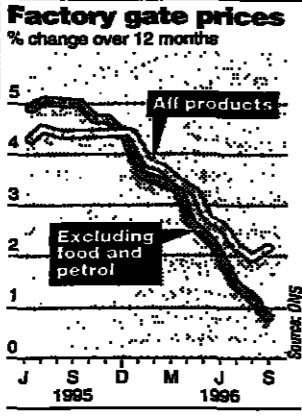
Richard Thomas  
Economics Correspondent

**S**TIFF high-street resistance to heftier price tags has pushed factory-gate inflation down to its lowest level for almost 30 years, according to figures published yesterday.

Combined with a sharp rise in the value of the pound on the foreign exchanges, the data was hailed by City analysts as further evidence of a benign inflationary outlook.

The Office for National Statistics said price tags on goods leaving UK manufacturing firms — stripping out erratic fuel and food — had risen by 0.9 per cent over the year to September, the lowest figure since September 1967.

Market-watchers said the figures would provide the



Factory gate prices % change over 12 months

Kevin Darlington, economist at brokers ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said: "The sustained weakness of cost pressures and the continued strength of sterling will allow the Chancellor to counter the Bank's more hawkish tone."

The pound closed at DM2.412 last night, half a pence up on the day, with dealers pointing to the effect of Mr Clarke's success at the Conservative Party conference.

Asked about the value of the pound at the end of a meeting of European finance ministers in Luxembourg, Mr Clarke said: "Sterling's strength doesn't concern me. We allow the markets to judge the value of sterling, which is why we aren't in the ERM. Sterling is strong and stable."

The Chancellor received more good news from the ONS on the price paid by British companies for raw materi-

als. Input prices fell by 2.7 per cent over the year to September — the biggest drop since March 1994.

The only bad news for industry was a rise in fuel costs, with the price of crude oil at its highest since the Gulf war. Petroleum products jumped by 3.9 per cent between August and September. Dearer fuel fed through to

the headline rate of output price inflation, which includes petrol, food, tobacco and drinks. In the year to September, the inflation rate for all goods leaving factories was 2.3 per cent, up from 2 per cent the previous month.

But most City commentators shrugged off the one-off effects of oil-price increases. James Capel's David Bloom

said: "Core output prices continue to trend downwards. And the three-month annualised rate of output inflation fell to zero, suggesting further falls are in prospect over the coming months."

Simon Briscoe, chief economist at Nikko Europe, said fresh signs of subdued inflation at the producer end augured well for prices on the high street, and went some way to counter the small rise in retail price inflation registered last week. "The hope of good news on retail prices remains alive," he said.

Mr Briscoe said the only potential threat to the inflation outlook would come from retailers attempting to use cheaper wholesale goods to restore margins. But most analysts said that competitive pressures on the high street would force shops to keep a lid on prices.

## British investors 'missing out in Hong Kong'

Don't bet on a fall after Chinese takeover, Donald Tsang tells Richard Thomas

**B**RITISH firms are missing golden investment opportunities in Hong Kong because of exaggerated fears of instability after the handover of power to China, the territory's financial secretary, Donald Tsang, warned yesterday.

In an interview with The Guardian, Mr Tsang, 47, criticised European pundits for misjudging the underlying strength of the Hong Kong economy and Beijing's political agenda.

"In England, the feeling seems to be that because a number of British nationals have come back, the place must collapse," he said. "The tragedy is that Britain is missing out. Japanese and American money is pouring in."

Mr Tsang insisted the Hong Kong economy was in good shape, with inflation down, growth strong, the trade balance steady, and stocks remaining firm.

The danger, he said, was that European investors would realise after the event that Hong Kong was in Chinese hands — by which time they could have missed some of the juicier investment opportunities.

A late investment rush would also give him a domestic economy headache, by fuelling inflation.

Mr Tsang passionately defended the "one country, two systems" blueprint for post-1997, which he said

leaders both in the territory and on the mainland were committed to.

On the link of the Hong Kong to US dollar (at an exchange rate of 7.9), the financial secretary warned that he had the resources to take on any dealers who bet on a fall. "I have US\$60 billion. If someone sells Hong Kong dollars short, I have the money to destroy them."

The first ethnic Chinese financial secretary, Mr Tsang was critical yesterday of the IMF to want to borrow money from, so they came to Hong Kong instead, but added sensitively: "We do need each other."

A free market would ensure political and individual freedoms, he said. When some of the Hong Kong press began to criticise China, fearing for advertising revenues, entrepreneur Jimmy Lai had launched a populist critical paper. Within months it was the second-best seller in the territory.

According to Mr Tsang, there are three compelling reasons why the Communist Party of China does not, in any case, want to smother Hong Kong under an ideological blanket.

First, Hong Kong is the number one investor in China, in large part with money recycled from elsewhere. Second, the territory offers China a political and cultural window on the west, and thus a stimulus to modernisation. But above all, if China fails to show that it can manage Hong Kong's capitalist economy, the ultimate prize — re-absorption of Taiwan — will slip out of reach.

## Tax inspector accused of taking bribes

**F**ORMER Inland Revenue special investigator Michael Alcock yesterday pleaded not guilty to the most serious bribery charges levelled against a Crown officer in recent memory.

He is accused of corruption involving first-class air tickets, the services of a prostitute and a cruise to Bermuda.

Mr Alcock denied a total of 13 charges at the Old Bailey. With him in the dock were businessmen Hisham Alwan and David Shamoon, who denied bribing Mr Alcock.

The trial proper has been delayed by legal argument and is not expected to open until tomorrow.

Mr Alcock, aged 47, of Colchester, was the legendary head of the Revenue's Special Office 2 in London. He and his staff were charged with extracting back tax from wealthy but reluctant payers, a job at which they excelled.

During Mr Alcock's time in charge, covering 1989 to 1992, tens of millions of pounds were recovered for the Crown from some of the most determined tax evaders.

The 13 charges against Mr Alcock cover the period June 1987 to October 1992.

One charge alleges that in the summer of 1992, he accepted from another man, Ara Oztemel, two first-class air tickets from London to New York, accommodation, the cost and expenses of a cruise from New York to Bermuda

and back, the payment of a \$2,417 Plaza Hotel bill and three Concordia tickets from New York to London.

Earlier the same summer, he is accused of accepting an expenses-paid holiday in Mallorca from a Marwan Kalo. The previous summer it is alleged he was given a holiday in Marbella, Spain, from Mr Shamoon.

For three years, in 1988, 1989 and 1991, he also had hotel bills in France paid for, according to the allegations.

The first charge states: "Michael Clayton Alcock, being an agent of the Inland Revenue, on a day unknown before January 1 1991, did corruptly accept from Hisham Othman Alwan a gift or consideration, namely the services of a prostitute, as an inducement or reward for showing favour to Hisham Othman Alwan in relation to his principal's affairs or business."

Two Knightsbridge hotel bills were allegedly paid for Mr Alcock by Mr Alwan in 1991 and 1992.

Mr Alcock is alleged also to have accepted a total of \$14,480 in cash as bribes between 1987 and 1992. He, Mr Alwan, aged 56, of Hans Place, Knightsbridge, and Mr Shamoon, aged 66, of Holland Park Road, West Kensington, have denied the various charges against them.

Anthony Arledge QC appears for Mr Alcock, Stephen Zolley QC for Mr Alwan and Edmund Lawson QC for Mr Shamoon. John Black appears for the Crown.



Tax inspector Michael Alcock arriving at the Old Bailey yesterday

### News in brief

#### Accountants desert beleaguered Wickes

THE accountancy firm Arthur Andersen is to resign as auditors for Wickes, the troubled DIY company which has discovered that it overstated profits by \$50 million, it emerged last night.

Sources within the accounting industry said that the decision had been made but it remained unclear when the accountants would step down.

The news comes as Wickes prepares to unveil tomorrow a long-awaited letter to shareholders in which it will explain how the accounting irregularities came about.

Publication of the letter, which has been held up by legal complexities, follows an investigation by City solicitors Linklaters & Paine which has uncovered irregularities, inflating the group's earnings over the last four years.

The letter is likely to state that former top executives have agreed to repay bonuses. Former finance director Trevor Llewellyn has offered to reimburse the company although negotiations are still taking place with lawyers representing former chairman, Henry Sweetbaum. — Patrick Donnan

#### Philips' profits warning

PHILIPS, the troubled Dutch electronics group, yesterday warned that its second-half profits would not show the forecast improvement and that it could be forced to speed up its restructuring plans.

The warning came just over a week before next week's third quarter figures and is the second time in recent history that Philips has had to issue late warnings to investors that profits have failed to live up to promises.

Philips shares slumped heavily on the news and dragged the rest of the Dutch stock market down in the early part of yesterday as the company made it clear that it was most unlikely that operating income would show an improvement in the second half compared with 1995. — Simon Beavis

#### Farnell shares fall 20.5p

SHARES in the electronic components distribution group Premier Farnell fell 20.5p to 650p after it announced disappointing first-half figures and forecast weak market conditions for the rest of the year.

The group is the product of Farnell Electronics' £1.85 billion takeover in April this year of Premier Industrial Corporation, its US counterpart. The business reported that first half net earnings per share, excluding rationalisation and other exceptional costs, fell from 17p to 16p. — Nicholas Baxendale

#### Eurotunnel seeks extension

EUROTUNNEL confirmed yesterday that it was asking the British and French governments for an extension to its operating concession, which runs out in 2003, as it tries to persuade investors to support its \$9 billion debt restructuring plan.

The company also unveiled a management shake-up, splitting the company into two operating divisions with Bill Dix moving from chief commercial officer to managing director of Le Shuttle.

#### Regulator steps off gas

GAS industry regulator Clare Spottiswoode said yesterday she would not be widening the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into British Gas for the time being. She said the latest inquiry would initially investigate only Ofgas's price control proposals for Transco, the group's pipeline and transportation business.

Analysts had been concerned that a broader investigation could complicate plans to demerge the domestic and international businesses early next year. British Gas triggered the MMC inquiry when it rejected Ofgas's proposals to cut an estimated \$28 from the average annual bill for 18 million domestic consumers. — Celia Weston

#### ADM pays record \$100m fine

Archer Daniels Midland, the American agribusiness group, yesterday agreed to pay \$100 million (\$36 million), the largest ever fine in a criminal antitrust case. In exchange for pleading guilty to two counts of price-fixing, ADM would see an end to all justice department investigations of misconduct into the company. ADM has been the target of a four-year probe.

The agreement calls on ADM to pay \$70 million for fixing prices of lysine, a feed supplement for livestock and citric acid, used in soft drinks and detergents.

The move comes just before ADM's annual meeting in Decatur, Illinois, where the company is based. ADM has come under shareholder pressure, particularly by the Florida and California pension funds, to appoint a more independent board of directors. — Mark Tran in New York

## IoD switches debate from fat cats to hefty profits

OUTLOOK/Lucre replaces virtue as rationale for corporate governance reforms, writes LISA BUCKINGHAM

**T**HE evidence is still far from conclusive but what is clear is that the debate has shifted. Corporate governance may still be regarded as "a good thing" *per se* but this is no longer enough.

It must be shown to pay its way, to create additional wealth rather than simply helping to protect what is already there.

With the main thrust of the debate hijacked by outrages such as Cedric Brown's 75 per cent pay rise at British Gas and the shower of share options to all and sundry in other privatised utilities, the premise that good corporate governance should lead to good corporate performance has yet to be aired.

Enter the Institute of Directors, which will today make a concerted effort to wrench the focus of corporate governance away from sterile confrontations about non-executive policemen in the boardroom and towards the putative financial benefits.

The difficulty lies in proving the positive rather than illustrating the negative. Better corporate governance might have prevented the failure of Polly Peck. But at one stage Polly Peck was one of the best performing companies on the stock market and a corporate governance snapshot would have revealed little.

For the time being — until the publication of studies, such as that now under way at Lancaster University Management School, which look at the correlation between the

effectiveness of boards and published accounting information — the assertion that good governance will, over time, result in outperformance has to be taken largely on trust.

But the proposition is gaining some eminent champions, not least Neville Bain, chief executive of Coats Vyeolla, whose new book\* will form a central plank of the debate at today's IoD corporate governance conference.

The book sets a challenging "action plan" for the way in which boards should be designed and assessed as well as providing a coherent argument for altering the relationship between companies and their shareholding owners.

**N**OW, Mr Bain — like Sir Ronnie Hampel, whose committee is looking at ways forward for corporate governance in Britain — is no wet-behind-the-ears idealist. His suggestions for improving company performance by creating closer relationships between institutional investors and directors are not easily dismissed.

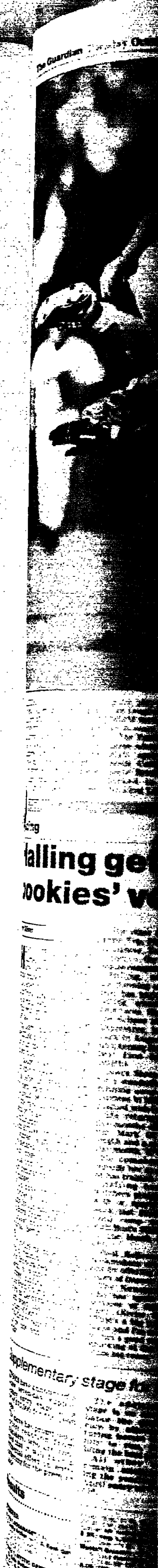
Mr Bain says that the top 50 investors own about 45 per cent — \$400 billion worth — of all shares. He argues that institutions should be far closer to companies in which they invest — possibly holding between 10 and 19 per cent in about 10 of the top 250 companies. They would maintain these stakes for five to 10 years, and in return be given a much bigger say in the appointment of non-executive directors and a more detailed

# Only one airline offers an afternoon departure from London Gatwick to New York

Continental is the only airline with a second flight to New York from London Gatwick, timed to allow you to do a full morning's work in the office before you depart. And as a BusinessFirst flyer you can select a complimentary chauffeur driven car\* or relax in First Class on the Gatwick Express or Thameslink to whisk you to the airport. Contact your travel agent or Continental on 0800 747800.

www.flycontinental.com

\*Certain conditions apply to complimentary chauffeur driven cars. For full details call Continental.



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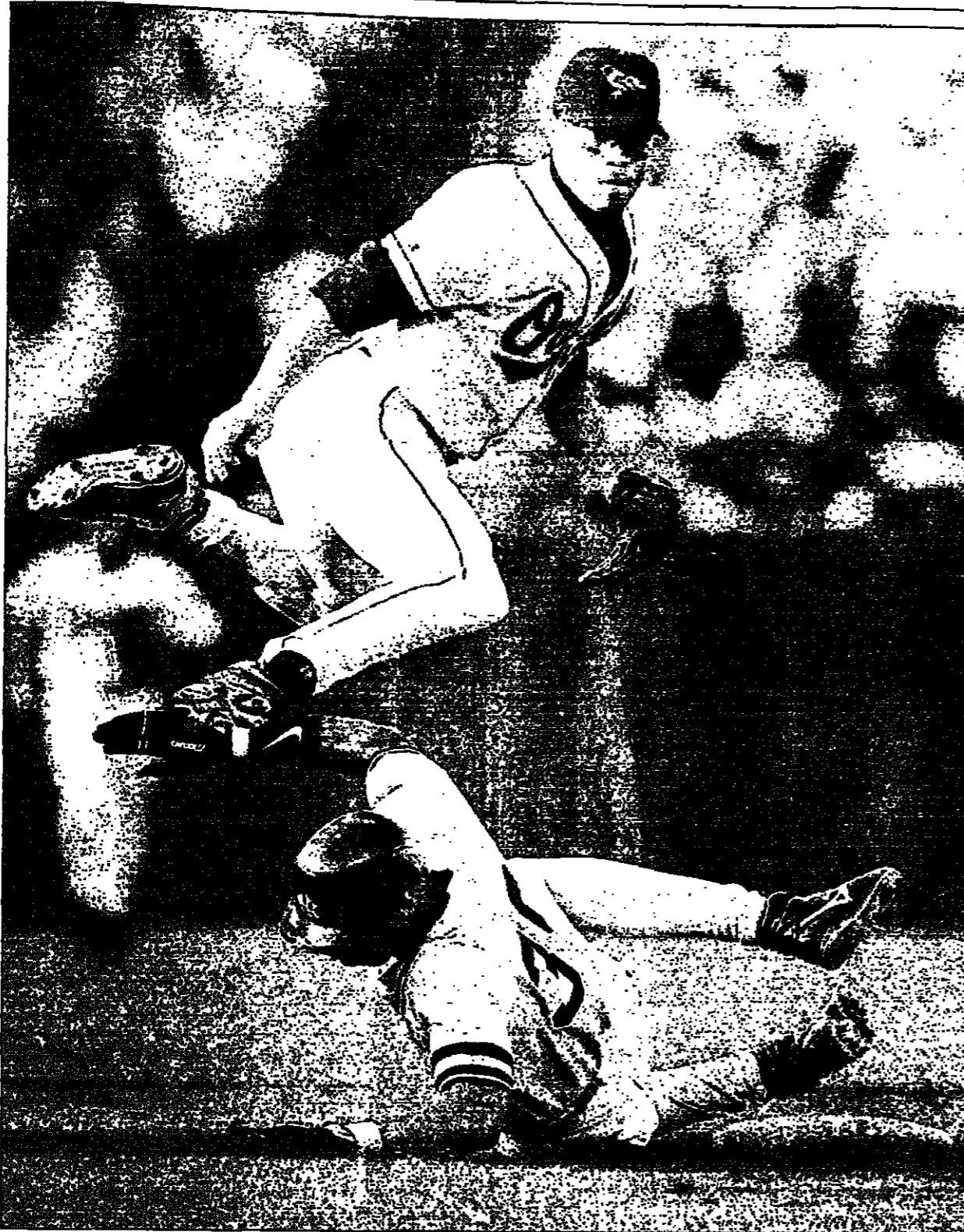
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YANKERS fine and dandy ... Roberto Alomar leaps spectacularly after tagging Darryl Strawberry at second base and throwing to first to complete a double play for the Baltimore Orioles, but the Yankees had the last laugh. They won 6-4 in Baltimore last night, making the Orioles 4-1 in the best-of-seven game play-off for the American League title to go into the World Series for the first time in 15 years.

Halling gets bookies' vote

Ken Oliver The other five runners are Even Top, First Island, Glory of Dancer, Tamayaz and Wall Street - the last two being stable companions of Halling. Halling, whether making the running or held for a late run, has improved with each outing. ... Halling, whether making the running or held for a late run, has improved with each outing.

Supplementary stage for Derby

EPFOM has announced a new seven-day supplementary entry stage at a cost of £75,000 for the 1998 Derby. The move has prompted a cautious reaction from bookmakers, who are concerned that it will have a detrimental effect on antepost betting for the premier Classic.

Results

LEICESTER 1.30 (7ps) 1. BOROMARIST, 2. FRENCH (5-4), 3. LEVY, 4. LEVY, 5. LEVY. 2.30 (14ps) 1. WINDSOR CASTLE, 2. WINDSOR CASTLE, 3. WINDSOR CASTLE, 4. WINDSOR CASTLE, 5. WINDSOR CASTLE.

The Cardinals lead 3-1 and could clinch victory in St. Louis tonight, but so far the New Yorkers are concerned the World Series winners are a foregone conclusion. 'It's destiny, this is our year,' said one supporter, a sentiment shared by thousands as fireworks lit the Brooklyn sky and car-horns blared in celebration.

Leicester with form for the Jackpot races

Table listing various horse races with columns for race number, time, and horse names. Races include 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30.

Golf

Monty dubious about return with Woosnam

David Davies THE strongest World Match Play Championship for many years - it comes close to justifying its title - is certain to have a European in the quarter-finals. There are only two in the field, Colin Montgomerie and Ian Woosnam, and the draw has brought them together in the first round to be played at Wentworth on Thursday.

Badminton

Park plants new English hope

Richard Jago on how a South Korean legend was lured across the world to reinforce the Steve Baddeley regime. WHEN one of the greatest players the sport has ever seen quits an illustrious career after science and management in an Olympic city and moves across the world to work in Milton Keynes as a coach for England, one wonders whether he has a serious professional ambition.

to defend their title. The team captain and inspiration lost all his three matches - one after taking 78 of the 78 of India's Gaurev Gheh. Montgomerie, clearly suspicious of a draw that so fortuitously brought the two Europeans together, said: 'I have to say I'm surprised. It's a tough assignment for both of us. I'm sure Ian won't be particularly impressed - as I'm not - but we'll both have to get on with it.'

Badminton

Park plants new English hope

Richard Jago on how a South Korean legend was lured across the world to reinforce the Steve Baddeley regime. WHEN one of the greatest players the sport has ever seen quits an illustrious career after science and management in an Olympic city and moves across the world to work in Milton Keynes as a coach for England, one wonders whether he has a serious professional ambition.

Sedgefield N.H.

Table listing various horse races with columns for race number, time, and horse names. Races include 2.15, 2.45, 3.15, 3.45, 4.15, 4.45, 5.15, 5.45, 6.15, 6.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45, 10.15, 10.45, 11.15, 11.45.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring phone numbers 0930 1681 and 101 2012, and a list of race results and commentary.





Yankees break 15-year duck, page 13  
Hill's next challenge, page 15

Newcastle lift the gloom, page 14  
Four-year ban for rugby player, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## THE NORTH-EASTERN DERBY



Playing to feet... Fabrizio Ravanelli on the ball on the night he became the leading scorer in English football this season with 11 goals

Premiership: Sunderland 2, Middlesbrough 2

# Ord off but Russell earns point

George Caulkin

THE Wear and Tees derby might have been restyled the Wear and Tear tit-for-tat as Sunderland twice pegged back Boro in muscular fashion despite having their key defender Richard Ord sent off for violent conduct after 58 minutes.

Boro's goals were taken in emphatic style by two members of their international brigade, Emerson and Ravanelli, while Peter Reid's more homespun flag was kept aloft by equalisers from Alex Rae, from the spot, and Craig Russell.

Ord, whose task was to contain the prolific Italian, was having his first game back from suspension since being sent off in last month's 1-0 defeat by Derby.

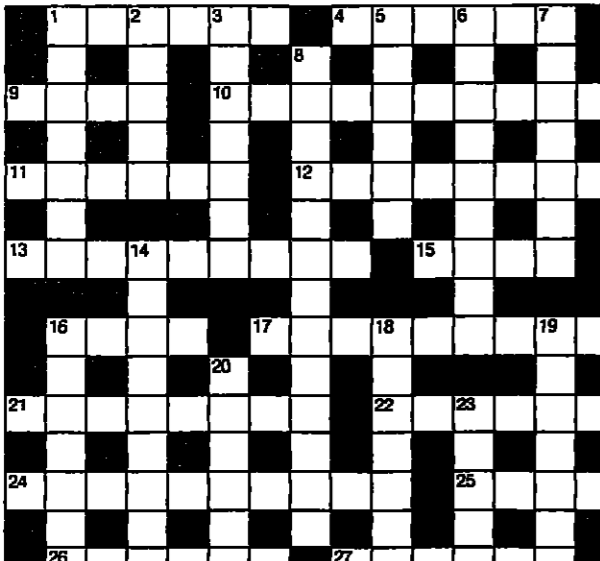
Reid's game-plan was apparent from the start, packing his midfield with five players to harry and restrict Middlesbrough's talented international brigade and fielding Paul Stewart as a lonely figure up-front.

It was an exercise in pragmatism that was ironically exposed by one of the Brazilian trio, Emerson, after only nine minutes when his crunching challenge forced the unfortunate Steve Agnew to be replaced by the more attack-minded Craig Russell.

Not that Sunderland could have been accused of negativity. With the famous old ground in fine voice and close to capacity, simple expectations had already propelled the home side forward in a fast and furious opening few minutes, with Michael Gray misdirecting a hopeful long-range shot high into the Roker Park end.

But the home side were clearly affected by the lengthy stoppage for Agnew to be carried from the field and the resulting change of personality. With the famous old ground in fine voice and close to capacity, simple expectations had already propelled the home side forward in a fast and furious opening few minutes, with Michael Gray misdirecting a hopeful long-range shot high into the Roker Park end.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,784



- Across**
- 1 Praise for Rome in Church of England article (6)
  - 4 Remained sober, so we hear (6)
  - 9 Harrow's air force (4)
  - 10 Thriving American follows Miranda's father (10)
  - 11 Selly is kind, that is evident (6)
  - 12 Complete, even if without alternative (8)
  - 13 Short stories one's acted out (9)
  - 15 Rod, getting pale and sickly, died (4)
  - 16 The sound of deodorised table-tennis? (4)
  - 17 Alpine flower is one less weed to worry about (9)

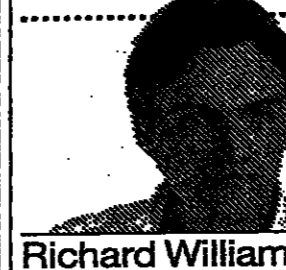
- Down**
- 1 Tin containing outdoor vegetable (7)
  - 2 Worry about gnats? (5)
  - 3 The top dog has to drink more rum (7)
  - 5 First-rate suggestion to party leader (3-3)
  - 6 A delay for mixing a long drink? (4,2,3)
  - 7 Given narcotics, Duke gets tough (7)
  - 8 Sun soon heated resort in Essex (8-2-3)
  - 14 Solicitor sails on south-east river (9)
  - 16 A dish Aesop cooked up (3,4)
  - 18 Will beneficiary put entrance in shelter? (7)
  - 19 Get small fault finder to run away (7)

Set by Orlando



- 21 No harm at all at sea in the long run (8)
- 22 Part of Ireland's force ever never-ending (6)
- 24 Saint is outwardly happy and true to principles (10)
- 25 Rascal on island with warriors (4)
- 26 About half a hundred do—but not all (6)
- 27 Delicate proposal (6)
- 20 Tool for cheat (6)
- 23 Landed proprietor in central Airdrie? (5)

# Playing the fool no joke for Bosnich



Richard Williams

THE rules of life are simple and threefold: never eat at a place called Ma's, never play poker with a man called Doc, and never assume that anyone else shares your sense of humour.

There must have been a terrible moment for Mark Bosnich at White Hart Lane on Saturday when he realised what he had done and how badly his attempted joke had misfired.

In trying to respond to the taunting of the Tottenham fans by mimicking Adolf Hitler, the Aston Villa goalkeeper used John Cleese's Basil Fawlty as his model.

He stuck one arm up in the Nazi salute, putting the gloved fingers of the other hand across his upper lip in mimicry of the Hitler moustache.

His deeper implications of his little jest were swiftly made clear to him. And ever since then he has been giving an impersonation of another celebrated Fawlty moment: when the hapless hotelier, having inadvertently placed his soot-covered hands upon the freshly laundered T-shirt covering the breasts of a young Australian guest an instant before his formidable wife appears, clasps his hands to his head and hops around in an agony of embarrassment.

Bosnich's action swiftly brought down the wrath of the referee, who booked him; of Jewish and anti-racist organisations; of the police, who are investigating the affair with a view to sending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service; and of the Football Association, which announced yesterday that he would be charged with misconduct.

A couple of hours after the offence Bosnich called Six-O-Six, Radio 5 Live's phone-in show, to apologise for his stupidity. But the Sunday and Monday papers were full of it, their coverage identifying the origin of the incident in his crude foul on Jürgen Klinsmann during a Spurs-Villa match two seasons ago, which has made him a particular target for abuse. The traditionally

high proportion of people with Jewish antecedents among Tottenham's supporters was clearly a factor in the angry response, and the player's Croatian ancestry was darkly professed as somehow having contributed to his motivation.

Yesterday, still trying to expiate his sin by acknowledging it, Bosnich faxed his agent Jon Smith an open letter which was then sent — untouched, Smith told me — to the Press Association.

"During a hold-up in the second half of the game," Bosnich wrote, "the crowd behind my goal were chanting at me and I was smiling and thinking that after two months out with an injury, how good it was to be back again and how nothing had changed."

A reference was then made about the Klinsmann incident which was amusing, and spontaneously, to join in their banter, I mimicked the 'Basil Fawlty' salute as a mere jocular acknowledgment of the crowd's banter.

"I am very sorry if I offended anybody. No offence was ever intended, only comical mimicry. I sincerely hope that this attempt at humour and the very genuine sorrow at its offence will conclude this now unfortunate matter. I do not comprehend that people would believe that someone with a Jewish slant would in any way go out to deliberate offend people."

"In closing I would like to say this: anti-Semitism and racism are crimes of humanity. Ignorance and jocularly are not."

Assuming that he meant crimes against humanity and that the ignorance he referred to is his own, I don't think anyone could take issue with Bosnich's apology. The FA disciplinary committee should meet swiftly, dress him down and issue a stern general warning. It would be common sense, then, to leave it at that.

ANY rats, let us hear no more from Glyn Ford, a Member of the European Parliament, who called for Bosnich to be expelled from the game and proclaimed: "He says it was a joke that went wrong. That is like Eichmann saying the concentration camps were a joke that went wrong."

Well, one knows what Mr Ford meant, just about. But perhaps the Manchester voters who sent him to Strasbourg would care to think hard about the judgment of a man who, when directing our attention to such a profound moral issue, can get a simile so far out of proportion. Adolf Eichmann? Mark Bosnich? Give over.

# Bobsleigh Briton given life drug ban

John Duncan

MARK TOUT became the first British athlete to admit deliberate steroid use yesterday when it was revealed that he has been banned for life after testing positive for anabolic steroids.

Tout, who has driven in four winter Olympics in both two-man and four-man teams, is the first British athlete to talk publicly about why he took steroids; all other disgraced competitors have protested innocence even in the face of lengthy bans.

Tout took stanozolol, the drug which caused the sprinter Jason Livingston to be sent home from Barcelona, and was caught in a random Sports Council test conducted last month at his Kew home.

"I completely regret doing it," he said. "I have been carrying an injury for the last four years and had various treatments with no success. Then speaking to various people and taking advice that maybe taking drugs would help that problem was one reason why I tried it. It helped when I was training hard and the injury kept breaking down."

It speeds up the healing." The identity of the "various people" will be a subject of concern to the British Bobsleigh Association and the British bobsleigh team coach Horst Hornlein.

Tout implied in an interview with BBC Radio 5 Live that drug-taking was more widespread than has been believed. "I am an educated adult," he said, "and I see what goes on in the world and in sport in general."

It is understood that the Sports Council had targeted the bobsleigh team for testing, having had "suspicions" over the past months. Bobsleigh is a

power sport, the key element being the push start, and many bobsleigh racers are former sprinters or decathletes.

No British bobsleigh racer has previously failed a drugs test, though the Austrian German bather was sent home from the 1994 winter Olympics after testing positive for metandienone, another steroid.

Tout, a former army corporal with the Royal Tank Regiment, must now pick up the pieces of his life. "My funding was cut as soon as this came out. I have to get on with life and find some employment."

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